

# Amb Moller Speaks at American International School

Headmaster Lemoine

Excellencies, Ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations

American International School faculty and staff

Students and Parents of students

Distinguished guests

Thank you for including me in today's events; I am so pleased to participate in your award ceremony. Special thanks to the parents for organizing and hosting the celebration.

I'd like to congratulate all of you -- faculty, parents and students for persevering through an uncertain time in Guinea's recent history. From the death of former President Conte to the inauguration of President Alpha Conde, Guinea experienced great political uncertainty. Indeed, it was serious enough to force the school to close its doors from time to time. Since the inauguration of President Conde, the climate has improved.

At last, it seems to me, we are at a time that permits Conakry's American International School to re-launch its robust programs fully. For those of you who have endured this tough period in the school's history, my hat is off to you. It is never easy to cope with the necessary limitations that political turmoil places upon institutions like schools. But here you are. You stayed the course. And we are now seeing an influx of families -- not only from my Embassy, but also from the numerous international companies that are opening offices in Guinea.

It looks like the start of a happier time.

I also want you to know that the American International School of Conakry has some engaged and distinguished alumni. Recently, United States Senator from the state of Rhode Island, Sheldon Whitehouse, proudly recalled his days as a student at the American International School of Conakry. His father, Charles Whitehouse, served as the U.S. Embassy's deputy ambassador to Guinea from 1969 – 1970. His son Sheldon was a senior in this high school, and he graduated from AISC in 1970. Under the administration of President Bill Clinton, Sheldon went on to become the US attorney for Rhode Island, and in 2006, he was elected to the Senate of the United States. He is proud to be a graduate of this school, and asked one of my colleagues particularly to be remembered to all of you this year.

Congratulations to those who will be presented with awards today, and again, thanks to everyone for your perseverance and determination. As this school year winds to its close next week, let us together wish for a fruitful and joyous next year at the American International School of Conakry.

Well done, everyone!

Thank you.